

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission-Wrangell-St. Elias National Park

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Park Service Subsistence Resource
Commission-Wrangell-St. Elias National Park

3b. GSA

Committee No.

558

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

08/08/2012

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

P.L. 96-487

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

P.L. 96-487

13. Effective Date

12/02/1980

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this
Fiscal Year

17a. Open 2 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2 Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
Develop and continue work on NPS subsistence program recommendations, and other related regulatory proposals.	10/26/2017	10/27/2017
Develop and continue work on NPS subsistence program recommendations, and other related regulatory proposals.	03/20/2018	03/20/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$105,300.00	\$111,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$4,600.00	\$3,500.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00

18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$3,200.00	\$3,600.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$800.00	\$900.00
18d. Total	\$113,900.00	\$119,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	1.15	1.15

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

Federal law and regulation provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses, including hunting, within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. The Subsistence Resource Commission for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park is a forum that promotes effective communication and mutual understanding of subsistence uses and related cultural resources. The Commission consults with every appropriate local advisory committee and regional council for comment and input on draft hunting plan recommendations. In addition to the advisory committee and regional council consultation process directed by P.L. 96-487 (the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act), the Commission is required to hold public meetings in all areas affected by the subsistence hunting program. During FY 2018, the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission conducted two public meetings. The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) met in the park's Visitor Center in Copper Center, Alaska, on October 26-27, 2017. Seven of the nine members attended the meeting. The Commission deliberated on proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board to change federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations and on regulatory proposals to the Alaska Boards of Game and Fisheries, along with a special action request to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding caribou in a portion of Unit 12. On March 20, 2018, the Commission met in Copper Center, AK, to consider development of subsistence recommendations related to backcountry and wilderness stewardship planning; caribou herds in the park; In-season management of the federal subsistence fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict; potential spread of the disease from domestic livestock into wild sheep and goat populations in Alaska; and NPS rulemaking process to consider changes to 2015 regulations related to hunting and trapping in Alaska national preserves.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Membership, as prescribed by the Commission's enabling legislation, consists of nine members as follows: (a) three members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior; (b) three members appointed by the Governor of Alaska; and (c) three members appointed by the regional council, as established by the Secretary or the Governor pursuant to section 805 of P.L. 96-487. The members include a range of individuals having personal knowledge of the region's subsistence conditions, and having an interest in Federal subsistence management.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Meetings are generally held twice a year, or as often as circumstances require. Commission recommendations are vitally important on matters relating to the taking of wildlife within the park, and are the foundation for the development and review of the subsistence hunting program.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Commission's recommendations help the NPS to ensure the continuation of the opportunity for local rural residents to engage in the subsistence use of resources in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The NPS has adopted the following mission statement to guide its activities. Subsistence will be managed as a legislated use consistent with the provisions of ANILCA, the Organic Act of 1916, and park's enabling legislation to:

- protect the opportunity for qualified local rural residents to continue traditional subsistence activities;
- recognize that subsistence ways of life differ from region to region and are continuing to evolve, and where appropriate, park management practices may reflect regional diversity and evolution;
- promote local involvement and participation in processes associated with subsistence management;
- ensure that management practices involving the utilization of public lands adequately consider the potential for restriction of subsistence uses and impacts upon subsistence resources;
- ensure that management of park resources is consistent with the conservation of unimpaired ecosystems and natural and healthy populations of fish and wildlife, incorporating scientific data and principles with traditional knowledge and cultural values; and
- promote effective communication and mutual understanding of subsistence uses and related cultural and social values, and park purposes and protection, between the NPS, subsistence users, the State of Alaska and the public.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open.

21. Remarks

(1) EXPECTED CHARTER RENEWAL DATE -- The FACA section 14(b) biennial rechartering requirement has been waived for this committee by P.L. 102-525, October 26, 1992. (2) EXPECTED COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE/TERMINATION AUTHORITY -- The Commission's enabling legislation, P.L. 96-487, provides for continuation of the Commission into the foreseeable future, without termination. (3) MEMBERSHIP -- In accordance with the Commission Charter and with P.L. 102-525, members may continue to serve after the expiration of their terms until successors are

appointed.

Designated Federal Officer

Ben Bobowski Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Entsminger, Susan	11/04/2006	11/04/2018	Subsistence Hunter	Representative Member
Horrell, Donald	11/04/2000	11/04/2018	Store Owner/Subsistence Hunter	Representative Member
Marunde, Jamie	11/01/2016	11/01/2019	Subsistence User	Representative Member
McCarthy, Suzanne	11/04/2000	11/04/2018	Community College Employee	Representative Member
Rowland, Kaleb	12/18/2017	11/04/2020	Subsistence Users	Representative Member
Sensmeier, Raymond	03/11/2016	03/11/2019	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Stevens, Daniel	08/08/2008	12/14/2020	Subsistence Hunter	Representative Member
Stickwan, Gloria	11/04/2005	11/04/2020	Subsistence hunter	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 8

Narrative Description

The Subsistence Resource Commission for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park has been established by the Congress to devise and recommend to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Alaska a program for subsistence hunting within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. The Commission's unique insight on local customary and traditional patterns of subsistence use within the park has been important in developing workable subsistence hunting plan recommendations.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Not Applicable

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None ☐

Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

16

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Commission did not submit any new formal recommendations to the Secretary of Interior in FY 2018. However during the March 2018 meeting, the Commission approved a motion to write a letter to the Secretary of the Interior expressing concern for the process to reconsider the NPS Alaska's 2015 wildlife regulations. The Commission made the following recommendations on Federal Subsistence Management regulatory proposals:- Support with modification Wildlife Special Action Request 17-05 to increase the harvest limit in Unit 12 Remainder to up to 2 caribou and delegate authority to set the harvest limit for the 2017/18 winter season. The recommended modification is to include consultation with affected tribes and the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission in the process of exercising the delegation of authority. - Support WP18-10, which would change moose hunting areas and seasons in Unit 5A. - Support WP18-13, which would remove trap marking requirement under federal regulations in Units 1 through 5.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

56%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

SRC hunting program recommendations have addressed the following:- Appoint alternate for each SRC member to ensure quorum. - Define resident zone community boundaries.- Evaluate Cordova for resident zone status.- Evaluate Tolsona for resident zone status.- Conduct subsistence access study.- Conduct analysis of ATV use on Malaspina

Forelands.- Establish fall spring and summer subsistence waterfowl season. Allow summer harvest of birds.- Implement Mentasta Caribou Management Plan.- Allow collection of horns and antlers.- Support studies of subsistence fish stocks.- Allow making , selling or trading handicraft items by subsistence users for customary trade.-- Clarify NPS definition of trap regarding use of firearms.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

19%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

SRC Proposed Actions:- Amend charter to allow SRC to report to Superintendent and Federal Subsistence Board.- Appoint alternate for each SRC member to ensure quorum. - Define resident zone community boundaries.- Evaluate Cordova for resident zone status.- Evaluate Tolsona for resident zone status.- Establish minimum residency requirement for resident zones communities.-Conduct subsistence access study.- Conduct analysis of ATV use on Malaspina Forelands.- Establish fall spring and summer subsistence waterfowl season. Allow summer harvest of birds.- Implement Mentasta Caribou Management Plan.- Use predator control on NPS lands.- Allow collection of horns and antlers.- Support studies of subsistence fish stocks.- Allow making , selling or trading handicraft items by subsistence users for customary trade.- Allow aircraft for subsistence access.- Clarify NPS definition of trap regarding use of firearms.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Public meetings and response letters to the committee.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Not Applicable

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

Not Applicable

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO



Online Agency Web Site



Online Committee Web Site



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other

**Access Comments**

For information on Wrangell-St. Elias National Park SRC go online to:

<https://www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/management/subsistence-resource-commission.htm>